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or issuing reports full of nauseating details or threadbare commonplaces, put such noble workers as President Nott, Bishop Potter, and Professor Lewis in the fore-front of their battle-array, and strike at the intelligence, talent, and influence of the country by such publications as constitute the volume of which we have now given an imperfect description and an inadequate eulogy?

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- 25.—*Kiana: a Tradition of Hawaii.* By JAMES J. JARVES.  
Boston: James Munroe & Co. 1857. 12mo. pp. 277.

THERE is a tradition among the natives of Hawaii, that, long before Captain Cook visited the island, a white priest arrived there, bringing with him an idol which was enrolled in the calendar of the Hawaiian gods, and that he acquired great reputation for goodness and an extended influence; also, that from a wrecked vessel the captain and his sister reached the shore, and were hospitably received, and adopted into the families of the chiefs. It is certain that, shortly after the conquest of Mexico, Cortez sent on an exploring expedition to California three vessels, two of which never returned. There are good reasons for believing that the wreck of one of these vessels may have cast upon Hawaii the white strangers of native tradition. Mr. Jarves has made them the heroes of the romance before us. The story is strongly conceived, abounds in conjunctures of thrilling interest, and is wrought out with great vividness and power. The narrative is interspersed with such descriptions of Hawaiian scenery as indicate an artist's eye and a poet's soul. The conversations, however, abound with anachronisms and (if we may be permitted to coin a word of which reviewers are sorely in need) *anatomisms*, untutored savages of the sixteenth century being represented in several instances as talking and reasoning like cultivated and sceptical Frenchmen of the nineteenth.

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- 26.—*Souvenirs of Travel.* By MADAME OCTAVIA WALTON LE VERT. In two vols. New York: S. H. Goetzl & Co. 1857. 12mo. pp. 348, 348.

A NEW record of European travel would seem the last thing that the public taste could demand or tolerate. Yet we believe that Madame Le Vert will find appreciating readers, even among those who have thought themselves completely satiated with books of this description. We do not regard Madame Le Vert's descriptive talent as superior to

that of cultivated and observing travellers in general. Indeed, her style is that of the *viva voce* narrative of a person of fine culture, mature understanding, elegant taste, and very moderate enthusiasm. She thus satisfies us the most fully in her descriptions of society and of artificial life; the least, in her sketches of Alpine and Italian scenery. But the charm of her work lies in her freedom of access, on terms of equality, to those higher circles of European and especially English society, of which we generally get only the far-off views of those who, "sovereigns" at home, are forced to be plebeians abroad, or the hardly nearer views of those who, by dint of impudence, through extorted introductions, push their way where they are not so much received as tolerated. We by no means admire this inaccessibleness of English aristocratic society; nor do we deem that society one whit the better, because it sees fit to plant around itself a hedge of thorn-bushes. But still it exists, and is of old, — a tradition, an institution, a social force; and we rejoice in the opportunity of inspecting it. Madame Le Vert was everywhere "received," and, while she has not, as we think, violated hospitality by too great license, she certainly exercises the broadest freedom consistent with good breeding in portraying persons, describing objects, relating incidents, and copying conversations. Her two European tours extended through all the portions of Europe usually visited by American travellers, and the narrative of the second commences with a residence of several weeks at Havana. From Havana she embarked for Cadiz, and in Spain she occupies a ground on which she has fewer predecessors and rivals than elsewhere, so that her chapters on the Spanish cities contain a very considerable amount of entirely fresh material.

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27. — *The Lives of the Chief Justices of England. From the Norman Conquest till the Death of Lord Tenterden.* By LORD CHIEF JUSTICE CAMPBELL, LL. D., F. R. S. E. Vol. III. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea. 1857. 8vo. pp. 381.

LORD CAMPBELL has brought down this series of biographies to a period within the memory of the generation now upon the stage, Lord Tenterden's death having taken place in 1832. It is superfluous for us to repeat what has been already said in our pages of the author's admirable adaptation to his work, alike in the profound legal learning which enables him to do professional justice to his subjects, in the union of keen insight and kind appreciation by which he sees the whole of a character, and exhibits it without detraction, petulance, or malice, and